

DISTRICT NEWS

Team Marines racks up third victory

STAFF SGT. MARC AYALIN AND  
TEAM RENSI MOTORSPORTS

MARINE CORPS RECRUITING COMMAND

QUANTICO, Va. - Bobby Hamilton Jr., driver of the No. 25 Team Marines Ford, and Team Marines Racing, racked up his third successful Busch series win of the season in the Sam's Town 250 at Memphis Motorsports Park, Oct. 18.

With three laps remaining in the race, Hamilton Jr. passed Johnny Sauter for the lead and continued his charge all the way to the drop of the checkered flag.

Determined and focused, Hamilton Jr. worked and pushed his car the entire race. He was even forced to overcome a near disaster when a loose tire from another car hit the front of his red Ford Taurus while in the pits.

"The Team Marines Ford was strong the entire race, there at the end, we had the best car and it was just a matter of catching up to Johnny and passing him at the right time," Hamilton Jr. said. "Harold Holly kept adjusting on the car and at the end it was perfect, I could race high or

low. We came here to take another trophy home and we accomplished our goal, now we can go to Atlanta and try and make it four wins for Team Rensi Motorsports."

With the win, Hamilton Jr. cut the point's lead to 224 points with four races remaining. He currently remains in sixth position, but with some luck, can possibly move up a few spots in the point standings by the end of the season. However, for Hamilton Jr., the focus remains on staying aggressive in trying to win the next four races of the season - the points simply are not on his mind at this time.

"It would be great to take away one of our bad races and be right back in the thick of the point's race, but we can't do that," Hamilton Jr. said. "At this point, we have four races left and I want to win four more trophies for Team Rensi Motorsports and all of our sponsors."

The next chance for another win comes Saturday at The Atlanta Motor Speedway. The Aaron's 312 takes the green flag at 1 p.m., and TNT and Performance Racing Network will provide live coverage of the event.



Staff Sgt. Jason S. Fischer

Bobby Hamilton Jr. holds his winning trophy and makes a speech after his winning ride Oct. 28. Hamilton Jr. recovered from an accident in the pit to claim the win.



Staff Sgt. Jason S. Fischer

Bobby Hamilton Jr. celebrates his win at the Memphis Motorsports Park in Millington, Tenn., Oct. 28 with Sgt. Steven Tanner, a recruiter from Recruiting Station Nashville. The Sam's Town 250 Busch Series NASCAR race was Hamilton's third win of the year.

District News

RSS Tupelo Marines rescue driver after highway accident

STAFF SGT. BRYCE  
PIPER

MPA, RS MONTGOMERY

It was a beautiful autumn afternoon. The sun shone down on an eastbound van with four Marine Corps recruiters leisurely driving on Highway 78 from Tupelo, Miss., to Montgomery, Ala., for their monthly meeting at the recruiting headquarters.

Just outside Eldridge, Ala., is where it happened. It's where disaster struck. It's also where the hands of fate found four U.S. Marines with the training and guts to deal with it.

"I saw two tractor-trailers sideswipe each other," explained Sgt. Brent A. Biles. "One vehicle was a six-wheeled hauling truck, the other an 18-wheeler loaded with coal. Both vehicles ended up in the ditch on the west-

bound side of 78. As soon as it happened I shouted for gunny to pull over," he said.

"I stopped the van immediately," said Gunnery Sgt. Mark E. Dumdie, who is in charge of Marine recruiting in 13 Northeast Mississippi counties around Tupelo and Oxford. "We all rushed to the first truck as the driver was exiting from the window. That's when we saw the smoke," he said.

The Marines quickly realized the truck was on fire as smoke billowed up into the sky. Through quick thinking and training, the Marines, including Dumdie, Biles, Sgt. Chadwick A. Cagle and Sgt. Bryan E. Simmons rushed into action.

While Biles and Cagle took the driver to safety, checked him for injuries and treated him for shock, Dumdie and Simmons checked the burning

vehicle for passengers before rushing to the second disabled truck.

"The driver was already out of his vehicle," stated Dumdie. "I asked him if he was all right and he said he had cut his elbow. Because I could see the injury wasn't life threatening, I asked a bystander to keep a close watch on him until help arrived. Then Sgt. Simmons and I grabbed fire extinguishers from his truck and ran back to

the first truck to fight the fire."

When the Marines exhausted the fire



extinguishers, the obstinate fire began to grow, engulfing the fuel tanks and threatening power lines overhead. The Marines cleared the area of any onlookers, hoping the local fire department would

arrive quickly, and checked the injured driver again.

Cagle and Biles were treating him in the back seat of their van, where he lay complaining of chest pain. Fortunately, a bystander identified himself as a doctor and took over treatment.

Within 10 minutes of receiving the call, the Eldridge Volunteer Fire Department began to arrive.

"Seeing that the fire truck had only a driver, I told him that I had firefighter experience and we could help," stated Dumdie. "Sergeant Simmons pulled the hoses while I manned the nozzle. We were able to get the fire under control and away from the power lines."

"At that time more volunteer firemen arrived wearing the proper gear and took over," explained Dumdie. "So Sgt.

Simmons and I went back to the van where Sgt. Cagle and Sgt. Biles were helping the doctor with the first driver. It appeared his injuries weren't life threatening. When the ambulance arrived shortly afterwards, they took control of him. Once the road was clear, we loaded up and continued on to Montgomery."

Ralph Tittle, fire chief of the Eldridge Volunteer Fire Department, commended the actions of the Marines.

"I think they did a great job," said Tittle. "Now, most of this was done before I got on the scene. We always appreciate help and assistance before we get there because if it hadn't been for somebody doing something like that it could have been a lot worse."

"We had to put the fire out before we searched every

Gettin' some on P.I. ...



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer

(Above) H&SBn. Marines prepare to duke it out during phase one of three of their pugil stick bout at Leatherneck Square Oct. 24. Phase one and two of the bout involved two-on-two competition, with Marines exercising the five killing blows in order to stay in the fight. The winners then moved on to phase three, a one-on-one battle on a bridge. (Below) Headquarters Co. Marines await to battle it out against Service Co. Marines during phase two of the pugil stick competition. Service Co. defeated Headquarters Co. with the most Marines left standing.



Cpl. Jennifer Brofer